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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Agenda item 44
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 26 April 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the European Union, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a declaration of the Presidency of the European Union on the decision adopted by the Palestinian National Council on the Palestinian Charter (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 44, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) F. Paolo FULCI

96-10862 (E) 290496 300496

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the decision adopted by the Palestinian National Council on the Palestinian Charter

The European Union congratulates President Arafat and the Palestinian National Council on their decision of 24 April 1996, taken by an overwhelming majority, to amend the Palestinian Charter so that it will no longer deny the right of the State of Israel to exist.

The European Union wishes to underline its continuing commitment to the cause of peace and democracy, courageously undertaken by the Palestinian people and its leadership. The decision to amend the Charter, which constitutes a confirmation of the strong Palestinian desire to fulfil its undertakings, shows how widespread the support for peace is among the Palestinians, and how limited the following of those who are opposed to it through violent means and terrorist actions.

In this respect, the European Union is confident that the Government of Israel will respond to this gesture of the Palestinians by:

- Implementing all the agreements, including the withdrawal from Hebron;
- Continuing the peace talks which are expected to resume on 7 May;
- Ending the closure which has been imposed on the West Bank and Gaza since the beginning of March.

Rome, 26 April 1996

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Letter dated 27 April 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the European Union, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a declaration of the Presidency of the European Union on the cease-fire in Lebanon (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 44, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Lorenzo FERRARIN
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

96-10869 (E) 290496 300496

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Declaration of the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the cease-fire in Lebanon

The European Union wishes to express its deep satisfaction for the cease-fire reached in Lebanon, hoping that it will put an end to violence, and that the peace negotiations will continue also on the Lebanese track, implementing Security Council resolution 425 (1978), and contributing to the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Since the beginning of the conflict, the European Union has deployed all its efforts in order to give its contribution to end the hostilities and to avoid the escalation of the crisis. The European Union reaffirms its commitment to pursue these diplomatic efforts aimed at promoting peace.

The European Union, while expressing its deep sorrow for the many victims among the civilians and for the material damage and suffering inflicted on the parties, intends to develop in direct consultations with the Lebanese authorities a European plan for the reconstruction of Lebanon and the emergency assistance for the hundreds of thousands of displaced persons.

Rome, 27 April 1996

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Agenda item 45

THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FIRM AND LASTING PEACE AND PROGRESS IN FASHIONING A REGION OF PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 29 April 1996 from the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you a photocopy of the letter dated 23 April 1996 addressed to you from Mr. Mauricio Vargas, the Presidential Commissioner for the Implementation of the Peace Agreements, and Mr. Shafick Handal and Mr. Salvador Sánchez Ceren, representatives of the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN), concerning the forthcoming completion of the mandate of the Mission of the United Nations in El Salvador (MINUSAL).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 45.

(Signed) Ricardo G. CASTANEDA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 23 April 1996 from the Presidential Commissioner for the Implementation of the Peace Agreements and representatives of the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional addressed to the Secretary-General

It is our pleasure to inform you that this afternoon we have met with the President of the Republic, Mr. Armando Calderon Sol, and the Vice-President of the Republic, Mr. Enrique Borgo Bustamante, in order to consider the forthcoming end of the mandate of the Mission of the United Nations in El Salvador (MINUSAL). We wish to avail ourselves of this opportunity in order to express appreciation for the presence of the United Nations in our country since it is considered inestimable assistance in achieving peace and implementing the peace agreements signed at Mexico City on 16 January 1992.

In our view, we feel that it would be advisable to set up a United Nations group consisting of the minimum essential personnel (three or four officials) and led by the current head of MINUSAL, Mr. Ricardo Vigil, as your representative in order to verify complete implementation of the points that are still outstanding at the end of the MINUSAL mission.

We believe that this final phase in the verification of the agreements demonstrates the continuing determination of the Government of the Republic and FMLN.

(Signed) Mauricio VARGAS
Presidential Commissioner for the
Implementation of the Peace Agreements

(Signed) Shafick HANDAL
FMLN

(Signed) Salvador SÁNCHEZ CEREN
FMLN